



2005 Program Activity in the Upper Arkansas River Watershed

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. It provides matching funds to state, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

FY 2005 FRPP Statewide Activities

County	Type	# of Contracts	Acres	Federal Share
Custer	Ranch	1	500	\$312,500
Pueblo	Ranch	1	440	\$231,000
Teller	Ranch	1	375	\$465,000
Total		3	1,315	\$1,008,500

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. It provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

FY 2005 EQIP Contract Funding in the Upper Arkansas River Watershed

Natural Resource Concerns	Applications Received	Applications Contracted	\$ Amount Approved
Water Quality	63	45	\$725,492
Soil Erosion	14	9	\$96,784
Grassland	58	33	\$578,319
Forestland	5	5	\$159,107
Wildlife/Declining Species	10	5	\$39,290
CNMP	4	4	\$60,104
Total	154	101	\$1,659,096

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), a voluntary program, offers landowners technical and financial support to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

FY 2005 WRP Activities

Number of Applications Received4
Number of Applications Contracted4
Dollar Amount Approved.\$1,134,745
Acres Under Contract.955

Statewide, another ten applications totaling \$4,483,489 are on the waiting list to fund 3,141 acres of easements.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

FY 2005 WHIP Activities

Number of Applications Received5
Number of Applications Contracted ...0
Dollar Amount Approved.\$0
Acres Under Contract.0

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), a voluntary program, helps landowners restore and protect grasslands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. It emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland under the greatest threat of conversion.

FY 2005 GRP Activities

Applications Received13
Applications Contracted2
Dollars Approved\$592,500
Acres Under Contract4,538

Upper Arkansas River Watershed



Photos by NRCS Colorado Staff



Watershed Profile

The Upper Arkansas River Watershed totals 10,025,500 acres and includes all and/or parts of Chaffee, Costilla, Custer, Elbert, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Lake, Las Animas, Lincoln, Park, Pueblo, and Teller Counties. NRCS natural resource specialists are staffed at the Canon City, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Salida, Silver Cliff, Trinidad, and Walsenburg USDA Field Service Centers, as well as at the San Miguel and Teller/Woodland Park Conservation District Offices. These specialists provide technical assistance, as well as incentive and cost-share program information to watershed residents.

NRCS Colorado looks to each watershed to identify its particular local resource needs and priorities. The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) provides leadership in this effort to foster increased decision making at the local level. In the Upper Arkansas River Watershed, 12 Conservation Districts organized a locally-led watershed work group that identified its major resource concerns as water quality and quantity, noxious weeds, wildlife habitat, and forest health. Ultimately, the work group will set goals, identify programs and other sources to address its natural resource concerns, develop proposals and recommendations, implement solutions, and measure success.

Colorado Watershed Associations and Conservation Districts



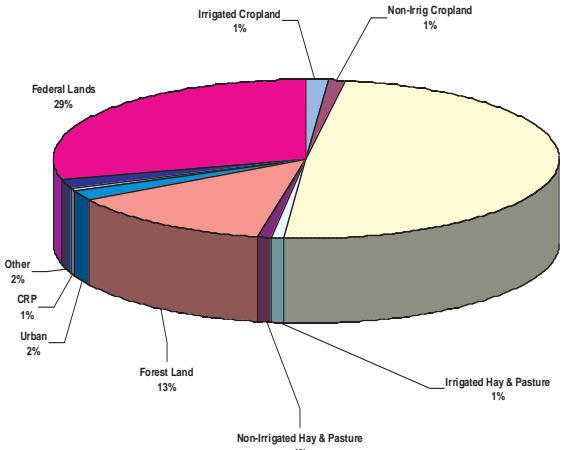
High Priority
Resource Concerns

as identified by a locally-led Watershed Work Group

- Water Quality
- Water Quantity
- Noxious Weeds
- Forest Health
- Wildlife Habitat

Land Use

Upper Arkansas River Watershed
Land Use 2004



3,051,720 Acres

Irrigated Cropland	500,496
Non-Irrigated Cropland	966,043
Rangeland	1,092,826
Irrigated Hay & Pasture	52,000
Non-Irrigated Hay & Pasture	55,000
Forestland	5,800
Urban	15,000
CRP	264,555



Photo by Janet Caolo-Tanski
NRCS Soil Conservation Aid

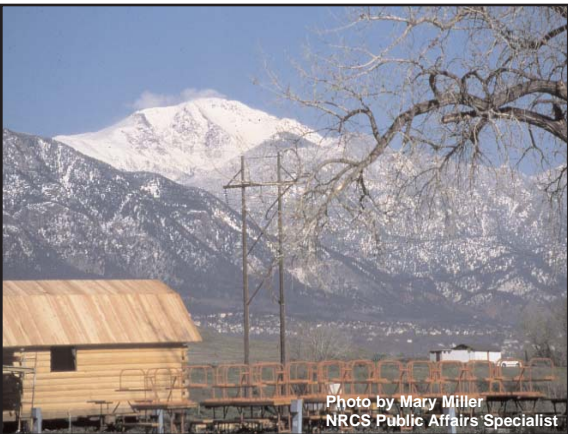


Photo by Mary Miller
NRCS Public Affairs Specialist

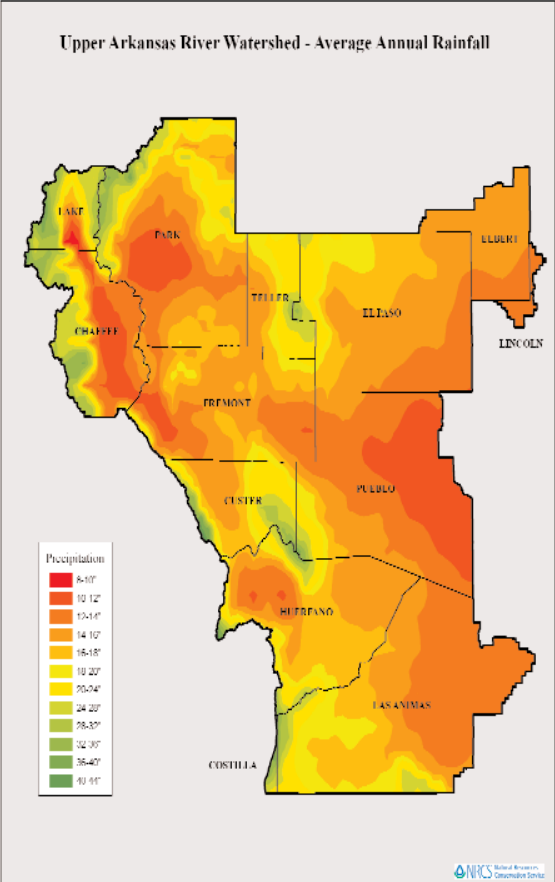
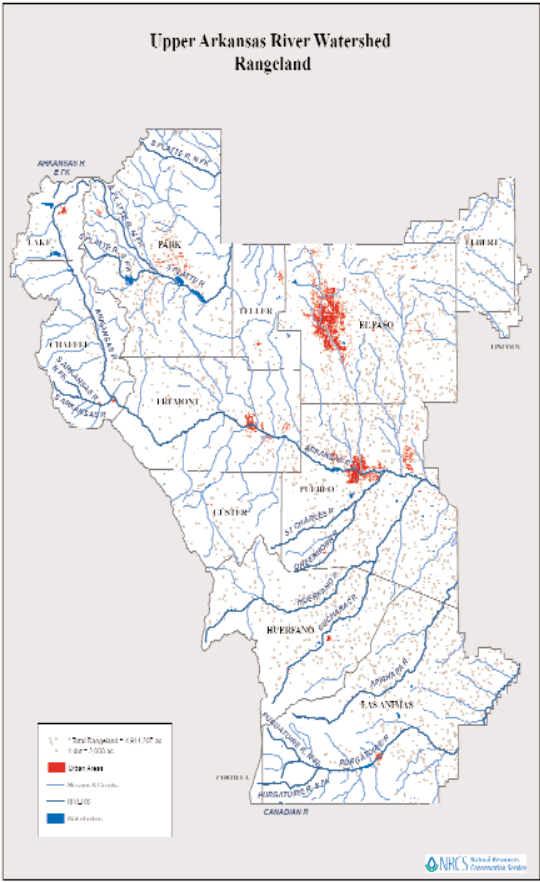
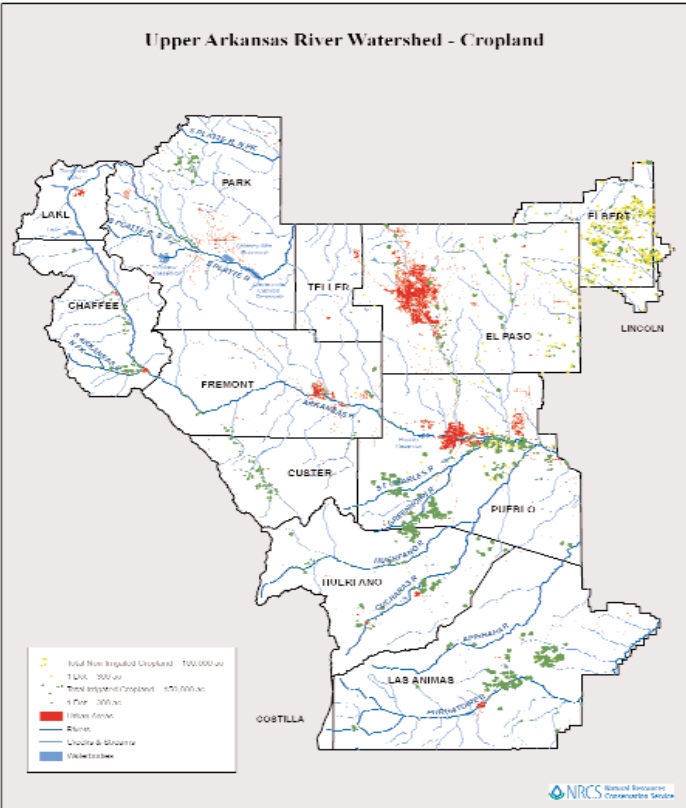


Photo by Levi Montoya
NRCS District Conservationist

In the Upper Arkansas Watershed, Spanish Peaks, or Dos Hermanos, meaning “twin brothers,” are prominent landmarks which guided Native American tribes, Spanish and French trappers, gold seekers, hunters, and American settlers. The peaks are the headwaters to the Apishapa and Cucharas Rivers, which make their way to the Arkansas River.